WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for managing data, comprising the steps of:

establishing a link with a database;

importing bibliographic data from the database;

grouping the imported data into at least one category;

storing the bibliographic data in at least one internal database;

linking together the corresponding imported data to form a record;

selecting at least one category for viewing;

retrieving the records from the selected categories; and

displaying the records by the selected categories.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the imported data is linked to corresponding imported data by a tight link.

3.   The method of claim 2, wherein the tight link corresponds to an access number and/or a patent number.

4.   The method of claim 3, wherein the selected data is displayed in a graphical format.

5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the groupings of the data are chosen by the user.

6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the groupings are listed in categories named by the user.

7.   The method of claim 1, wherein data imported from at least one database provide information to each of the patents or documents cited for a particular patent or group of patents.

8.   The method of claim 1, wherein each internal database stores a predetermined category of imported data.

9.   The method of claim 1, wherein a parameter file is created, prior to importation of data, which contains various categories of bibliographic data for an individual record.

10.   The method of claim 1, wherein the data is displayed in a spreadsheet format in accordance with a user's preference selection.

11.   The method of claim 1, wherein the displayed data can be manipulated by a user in order to view the data most relevant to the user's needs.

12.   The method of claim 1, wherein the bibliographic data pertains to patents.

13.   A system for acquiring and presenting data, comprising:
    a computer that establishes a link with a database and imports data from the database,
    a memory that stores the imported data in various groupings and categories;
    an internal parameter that links corresponding data with each other to form a record of data;
    a selection component that allows a user to select particular data of a record and the format of the data for display; and
    a presentation device that displays the selected data.

14.   The system of claim 13, wherein the imported data is bibliographic data related to patents.

15.   The system of claim 13, wherein the data is linked by the internal parameter according to access number and/or patent number.

16.   The system of claim 13, wherein the data is provided in a statistical spreadsheet format.

17.   The system of claim 13, wherein the data is presented in a graphical format.

18.   The system of claim 13, wherein data may be marked by the user with an indication of priority.

19.   The system of claim 13, wherein the data imported includes the number of references cited to a patent.

20.   A computer readable medium containing a program which executes the following steps:

establishing a link with a database;

importing data from the database, where the data includes bibliographic data;

grouping the imported data into at least one category;

storing the grouped bibliographic data in at least one internal database;

linking corresponding imported data to form a record;

selecting at least one category for viewing;

retrieving the records from the selected categories; and

displaying the records by the selected categories.